



MARYLAND RURAL COUNTIES COALITION

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: December 7, 2012

Contact: Ragen Cherney: 301-600-1049

Maryland Rural Counties Coalition Grows to Ten Counties

The Maryland Rural Counties Coalition has expanded now to ten counties. With a vote on Tuesday, December 4, the Kent County Commissioners voted to join the Coalition.

The Coalition now consists of Allegany, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Dorchester, Frederick, Kent, Somerset, Washington and Wicomico Counties, representing 939,980 rural Maryland residents.

On December 12, 2011, the governing bodies of Allegany, Carroll, Frederick and Washington Counties announced the creation of the Maryland Rural Counties Coalition with an eye towards other rural counties joining their ranks, for purposes of strengthening their policy-related standing in the halls of Annapolis. Since then, five additional counties have now become members of the Coalition.

Maryland Rural Counties Coalition Chairman and Allegany County President Michael McKay stated, "We are tremendously pleased and honored that Kent County has chosen to add their collective voice to the Coalition. We look forward to working with the members of the Coalition in our mutual goal to ensure that the unique needs and perspectives of Maryland's rural counties are taken into consideration during the decision making process in Annapolis."

One of the Charter Coalition members, Coalition Executive Board member, Frederick County Commissioner President Blaine R. Young noted, "The ten counties of our coalition represents more than 900,000 Maryland residents and our collective membership allows our jurisdictions and in turn the citizens of Maryland's rural counties a bigger voice in Annapolis."

Kent County Commissioner Bill Short stated, "Rural Maryland often finds itself at a strategic disadvantage from policy decisions made by the Maryland General Assembly because the non-rural counties often speak as one, thus prevailing. Our intent is to help balance the decision-making process in Annapolis so rural Maryland's interests are strengthened and equated to the interests of non-rural Maryland. And this can only be accomplished by working together in partnership through a strong alliance between Maryland's rural counties."

"Kent County is happy to join with the Maryland Rural Counties Coalition to make our collective voices heard in Annapolis and beyond. The ten counties of our coalition represent nearly one million Maryland residents. The causes and concerns of rural Maryland residents will be heard."

Member Jurisdictions: Allegany, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Dorchester, Frederick, Kent, Somerset, Washington & Wicomico Counties

phone: 301-600-1049 | fax: 301-600-1050 | Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701